DDT residues in milk samples and other food items

@711. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report prepared by a specially constituted task force by the Indian Council of Medical Research to the effect that DDT residues are found in milk samples, canned fruit products and other food items and edible oils etc.;

(b) if so, the details; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Traces of DDT residue were found in the samples analysed, but the median value of DDT residue in milk was within the prescribed limit of 1.25 p.m.

(c) The Food (Health) Authorities of the States and Union Territories have been alerted to be more vigilant about such food contaminants and to draw maximum number of samples for testing etc. and take appropriate punitive action to ensure sale of pure and wholesome food.

Speedy disposal of rape cases

@712. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent Supreme Court judgement in a rape case of Karnataka, according to which two rapists were let off with mild sentence on the ground that they had suffered enough due to long drawn case which lasted for 15 years;

(b) if so, the details of the judgement, what is the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to take any measures to ensure that rape cases are disposed of quickly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir, the Government has seen the judgement of the Supreme Court delivered in Criminal Appeals Nos. 553-554 of 1982 in Raju Krishna Vs. State of Karnataka, Briefly, the facts are that the victim agreed to share a room at night with the two accused who committed rape on her. The Supreme Court held that "Considering the very young age of the accused persons and considering the circumstances under which there was every likelihood that they could not overcome the fit of passion and lost all sense of decency and morality and ultimately committed the offence of rape and also considering the fact that the incident had taken place long back and during course of the proceedings upto this Court, both of them had suffered disrepute and mental agony, we think that the ends of justice would be met if both the accused persons are awarded a lesser sentence."

The existing legal provisions are sufficiently strict and lesser punishment is provided for, only if so decided by the Court. Also there are adequate provisions in law for the courts to dispose of cases expeditiously.

Benefits to ex-BSF personnel

713. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSF personnel who perform duty similar to army in guarding India's borders are given any benefits like reservation which is given to ex-servicemen if so, what are the details thereof;

@Previously Unstarred Question No. 135, Transferred from 3.12.93.

@Previously Unstarred Question No. 77, transferred from 2nd December, 1993.